

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1 1. The incorporation into a packing machine for
2 smokers' products of a device for subdividing an
3 elongated web of coherent blanks into discrete blanks
4 preparatory to confinement of discrete blanks in packs
5 of smokers' products.

1 2. The improvement of claim 1, wherein the blanks
2 are coupons.

1 3. Apparatus for manipulating blanks in a machine
2 for packing smokers' products, comprising:

3 a source of blanks including means for supplying
4 a continuous web of coherent blanks and means for
5 subdividing the web into a series of discrete blanks;
6 and

7 means for conveying successive blanks of the series
8 to an assembling station.

1 4. The apparatus of claim 3, wherein said means
2 for supplying includes a reel arranged to store a supply
3 of convoluted web.

1 5. The apparatus of claim 4, further comprising
2 a magazine for temporary storage of at least one stack
3 of superimposed discrete blanks between said reel and
4 said conveying means.

1 6. The apparatus of claim 5, wherein said magazine
2 is arranged to temporarily store a stack of blanks
3 wherein the blanks of the stack have registering edges,
4 said subdividing means including a knife having a cutting
5 edge aligned with the registering edges of blanks in said
6 magazine.

1 7. The apparatus of claim 6, wherein the
2 registering edges are the front edges of blanks in said
3 magazine.

1 8. The apparatus of claim 3, wherein said subdividing
2 means includes at least one knife.

1 9. The apparatus of claim 3, wherein said subdividing
2 means includes a mobile knife and a stationary
3 counterknife.

1 10. The apparatus of claim 3, wherein said
2 subdividing means includes guiding means.

1 11. The apparatus of claim 3, further comprising a
2 support for said subdividing means.

1 12. The apparatus of claim 11, wherein said
2 subdividing means is pivotably mounted on said support.

1 13. The apparatus of claim 11, wherein at least a
2 portion of said conveying means is borne by said support.

1 14. The apparatus of claim 3, further comprising a
2 support and at least one magazine for temporary storage of
3 at least one stack of superimposed discrete blanks between
4 said subdividing means and said assembling station, at
5 least one of said subdividing means, said at least one
6 magazine and said supplying means being provided on said
7 support.

1 15. The apparatus of claim 14, wherein said at least
2 one magazine is pivotably mounted on said support.

1 16. The apparatus of claim 3, further comprising a
2 support, wherein at least one of said subdividing means,
3 said supplying means and at least one magazine for
4 temporary storage of at least one stack of superimposed
5 discrete blanks between said subdividing means and said
6 assembling station, being provided on said support.

1 17. A method of manipulating blanks in a machine for
2 packing smokers' products each of which is to contain a
3 blank of sheet-like material, comprising the steps of:
4 subdividing a continuous web of coherent blanks into
5 a series of discrete blanks; and
6 conveying discrete blanks of the series to an
7 assembling station.

1 18. The method of claim 17, further comprising the
2 steps of establishing a source of supply of collars,
3 transporting discrete collars seriatim from the source of
4 supply to said assembling station, and locating successive
5 supplied blanks in predetermined positions relative to
6 successive discrete collars at said station.

1 19. The method of claim 18, wherein said locating
2 step includes causing successive discrete collars to at
3 least partially overlie the respective blanks at said
4 station.

1 20. The method of claim 17, wherein said subdividing
2 and conveying steps replace steps of accumulating a stack
3 of superimposed blanks and conveying successive blanks of
4 the stack to said station.

1 21. The method of claim 17, wherein the blanks are
2 coupons.

1 22. The method of claim 17, further comprising the
2 step of confining successive conveyed discrete blanks
3 between inner and outer envelopes of discrete cigarette
4 packs.